

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 INRE-00
SSO-00 PA-02 USIE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 WRDE-00 /057 W
-----087910 021238Z /23

O 021133Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6830
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL IBADAN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL KADUNA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS LAGOS 02605

BRUSSELS AND MONROVIA FOR FFL

E.O. 11/52: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, NI
SUBJECT: NIGERIA ABISI S CRASH KILLS 18

REF: 77 LAGOS 15036

1. IN DODAN BARRACKS PRESS CONFERENCE, COMMISSIONER FOR CIVIL
AVIATION, W. O ISIOGU, SAID THAT EIGHTEEN PEOPLE DIED AT ABOUT
1340 MARCH 1 IN MID-AIR COLLISION BETWEEN NIGERIAN AIR FORCE
MIG 21 AND NIGERIA AIRWAYS (WT) FOKKER F-28 WHICH WAS ON FINAL
APPROACH PATH TO RUNWAY AT KANO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. TWO
VICTIMS, PILOT AND FLYING TRAINEE, WERE ABOARD MIG. ALL 16
ABOARD WT 561 TRAVELING FROM SOKOTO TO KANO ENROUTE TO LAGOS
WERE KILLED. PLANES IMMEDIATELY CAUGHT FIRE AT SCENE OF
ACCIDENT.

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2. IZAICNOER MEETING WITH EMBOFF, O. OGUNBIYI, DIRECTOR,
CIVIL AVIATION, SAID THAT DETAILS PARA ON ARE ALL THAT
NIGERIA PREPARED TO DIVULGE TO PUBLIC. IN RESPONSE TO

EMBOFF QUESTION, HE SAID THAT WT WOULD NOT WANT NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD ASSISTANCE WITH ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION. FINALLY, OGUNBIYI NOTED THAT THIS WAS NOT FIRST FATAL ACCIDENT BY WT, CITING CRASH IN 1969 OF A VC-10.

3. COMMENT: IRONICALLY, THIS ACCIDENT OCCURRED JUST AS WT WAS BEGINNING TO RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ITS BETTER SERVICE AND GENERALLY IMPROVED PERFORMANCE. AN EXAMPLE WAS FEBRUARY 9 EDITORIAL IN NEW NIGERIAN ENTITLED QUOTE REJUVENATION IN THE SKYPOWER UNQUOTE. HOWEVER, ACCIDENT IS NOT NECESSARILY ANOTHER INDICATION THAT WT IS AN UNSAFE AIRLINE AS SPECULATED PARA 12A REFTEL. AFTER OGUNBIYI MEETING, EMBOFF OVERHEARD ANOTHER SENIOR CIVIL AIR OFFICIAL SAY QUOTE I AM TOLD IT COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED WITH A LITTLE MORE CARE ON THE PART OF THE NIGERIAN AIR FORCE PILOT UNQUOTE.
EASUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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